

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for detecting the presence of a coating on spaced fins having electromagnetic surface properties different than the electromagnetic surface properties of the coating and defining at least one passage between the fins, said method comprising the steps of;

propagating electromagnetic rays from a light source through the passage between fins,

establishing a predetermined benchmark for the reflected electromagnetic rays with a first detector,

reflecting at least some of the electromagnetic rays off the coating on the fins.

detecting reflected electromagnetic rays ~~from~~ reflected off the coating with a second detector,

comparing the reflected electromagnetic rays from the coating to the benchmark, and

providing a signal in response to the reflected electromagnetic rays crossing the benchmark,

wherein the step of establishing the predetermined benchmark is further defined as detecting direct electromagnetic rays passing through the passage from the source without reflecting off the fins with the first detector and comparing the reflected electromagnetic rays to the direct electromagnetic rays to measure the ratio therebetween.

Claims 2-5 (Cancelled).

6. (Currently Amended) A method as set forth in claim [[3]]1 wherein the step of propagating of electromagnetic rays is further defined as propagating a frequency modulated light.

Claims 7-9 (Cancelled).

10. (Currently Amended) A heat exchanger assembly comprising;

spaced fins having electromagnetic surface properties and defining at least one passage between the fins,

a coating on said fins having electromagnetic surface properties different than the electromagnetic surface properties of said fins,

a light source for propagating electromagnetic rays through said passage between said fins for reflecting at least some of the electromagnetic rays off said coating on said fins,

a first detector that detects direct electromagnetic rays passing through the passage from said light source without reflecting off said fins for establishing a predetermined benchmark for the electromagnetic rays;

a second detector for detecting reflected electromagnetic rays from said coating, and

~~a comparator for comparing the electromagnetic rays from said coating to the predetermined benchmark~~that is responsive to said first and second detectors for comparing the reflected electromagnetic rays to the direct electromagnetic rays to measure the ratio therebetween and providing a signal in response to the electromagnetic rays ratio crossing the predetermined benchmark.

Claims 11-13 (Cancelled).

14. (Currently Amended) An assembly as set forth in claim ~~[[11]]~~10 wherein said light source comprises a frequency modulated light.

15. (Currently Amended) An assembly as set forth in claim ~~[[11]]~~10 wherein said light source comprises a light emitting diode.

16. (Cancelled).